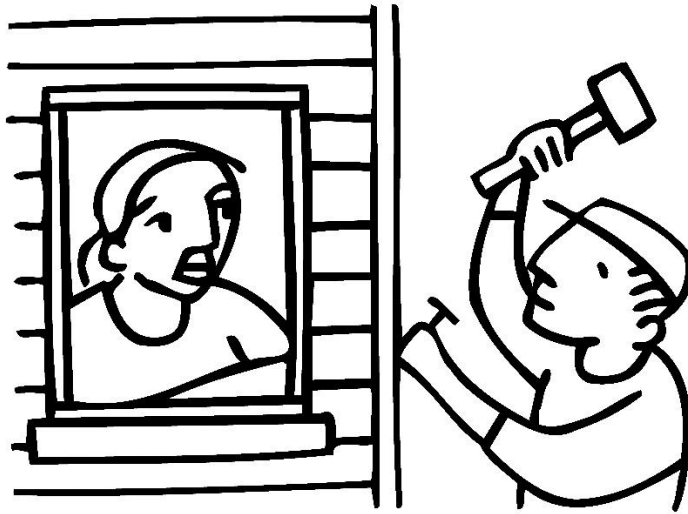


Reformation Sunday

October 18, 2026



Reformation Lutheran Church

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WELCOME TO REFORMATION! Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

PRELUDE: "Immortal, Invisible" (Chime Choir)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(We stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ACS p. 29

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.

Amen.

On this Reformation Sunday, we remember a question that troubled Martin Luther: How can I stand before a holy God when I know my own sin and shortcomings?

We remember a church that sometimes offered people fear where they needed hope, and burdens where they needed the promise of grace. We, too, know what it means to feel that we are not enough. We try to prove our worth, earn approval, and hide our failures. But the good news of Jesus Christ is this: God's love is not a reward for the worthy. Forgiveness is not something we purchase or earn. It is God's gift, freely given in Christ. Trusting in this promise, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Have mercy, O God,

against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us.

Amen.

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

Blessed be God forever.

GATHERING SONG: "*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*" ELW #504

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

ACS p. 31



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.



Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, you renew your church in every age through the power of your Holy Spirit. Keep us steadfast in your living Word, and remind us that we are justified by your grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Free us from fear, pride, and the need to earn your love. Give us courage to question what keeps people from the good news, humility to recognize where your church needs reform, and faith to proclaim your liberating gospel in word and deed. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

(We sit)

NOISY OFFERING

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46 (sung)

¹God is our ref-¹uge and strength,
a very present¹ help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the¹ earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths¹ of the sea;**

³though its waters¹ rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble¹ with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-¹y of God,
the holy habitation of¹ the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall¹ not be shaken;
God shall help it at the¹ break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the¹ kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth¹ melts away.**

⁷The LORD of¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob¹ is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works¹ of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up-¹on the earth;**

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in¹ all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the¹ shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood,

effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PROCESS DURING GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ACS p. 33)

(We stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ACS p. 33



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia



Our hearts burn with - in us as you open to us the scriptures.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free?'"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

RECESS

(We sit)

SERMON

(We stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY: DAY "Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

ELW #579

CREED

Let us confess our faith with the Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we give thanks for Martin Luther and all who have called the church to renewal throughout the generations. Keep us rooted in your Word and grounded in your grace. Give us courage to reform what keeps people from the good news, and free us to serve our neighbors in love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed. Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air. Inspire us to care faithfully for the world you have entrusted to us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for our criminal justice systems and all whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police officers, probation officers, judges, and attorneys. Give courage, dignity, and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated, and guide us toward justice and restoration. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all who have been harmed by the church and its leaders. May truth be spoken, accountability be pursued, and healing become possible. Let your liberating grace reach all who have been wounded in your name. We also pray for all who are sick or suffering, especially [names]. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for all who are exploring faith or returning to the life of the church. Welcome their questions, encourage their searching, and guide them toward a community where they may encounter your grace and find hope in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick. We pray especially for Linda, Curtis, Peggy, Carmen, Kathy, Louise, Sherry, Clay, Dianne, Jason, Roger, Gezell, Cassie, Myra, Lloyd, John, Toni, Liz, Roberta, Pantha, and those we name in our hearts and on our lips. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With gratitude, we remember the saints who have gone before us, including those who helped reform and renew your church, and all our beloved dead. Keep us united with them in the communion of saints and in the hope of resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with each other.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

(We sit)

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM: *"How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"*

OFFERTORY: *"We Are An Offering"*

ELW #692

(We stand)

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

ACS p. 36

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

"How Majestic is Your Name"

C C/E F Dm⁷ C/E C C/E G⁷ G⁷/B C

O Lord, our Lord, how ma-jes-tic is your name in all the earth!

C/E F Dm⁷ C/E C C/E G⁷ G⁷/B C

O Lord, our Lord, how ma-jes-tic is your name in all the earth!

F Dm⁷ G Am⁷ G⁷/B C C/E

O Lord, we praise your name. O

F Dm⁷ G Am⁷ G⁷/B C B B/D#

Lord, we mag-ni-fy your name, Prince of

Em D D⁷/F# G G⁷/F C/E F G⁷_{sus} G⁷ C

Peace, might-y God, O Lord God Al-might-y.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and light. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:

The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song: The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song: The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again: The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

Amen, and Amen.

Amen, and Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

(We sit)

COMMUNION HYMN:

ACS p. 40



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: "*Baptized and Set Free*"

ACS p. 41

(We stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ACS p. 41

Living God, as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord, we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ. Through this meal may we be strengthened to keep your word and to proclaim the power of your love in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in  Christ Jesus.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *"The Church's One Foundation"*

ELW #654

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *"Processional"* (G.F. Handel)

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